



IDEA Part C Winter Family Newsletter

January-February 2014 Volume 4 No 1

Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral..... **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

Dear Parents/Families,

An opportunity to participate... **MEETING NOTICE**

STATE EARLY INTERVENTION

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Date and Time of Meeting: **Thursday, January 16, at 9:00 a.m.**

Meeting will be held via Video Conference at the Following Locations:

- **Las Vegas:** Nevada Early Intervention Services
1161 South Valley View Blvd., Conference Room
- **Reno:** Nevada Early Intervention Services
2667 Enterprise, Conference Room
- **Elko:** Nevada Early Intervention Services
1020 Ruby Vista Drive, Conference Room

Nevada's **Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC)** has a federal mandate to advise and assist Nevada in the development and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. Families and community partners are invited to all ICC meetings.

It is especially important to hear from families and I encourage you to participate. If you would like more information about attending meetings or how to submit public comments to the Council please contact me at: ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov or 1-800-522-0066 Project ASSIST

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell



Dan, Eric and Cheryl

**NEVADA's EARLY
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Please enjoy the stories shared
of families who have "been there
and done that!" — See page 2.

⇒ **How parents can get more involved...** There are many ways that you and your family can get involved with Early Intervention Services beyond the services and supports designed for you. The Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) must have a minimum of 20% parents serving on it. The ICC meets at least 4 times a year for about 5-6 hours. By actively participating and interacting with others, you can choose to make a difference in the lives of many young children with special needs and their families. One voice can make a dramatic difference!

⇒ ICC Parent Representatives have many opportunities to: • *Provide valuable input from a parent's perspective* • *Assist in the development of program policies* • *Help shape and create a better system for all children receiving Early Intervention Services* • *Gain experience in communication and leadership* • *Get useful information and answers to questions you may have.*

⇒ Nevada's ICC has also established a "Family Support Resource Subcommittee". This committee supports ICC activities and helps ensure the ICC responds to issues important to families, strengthens and broadens family involvement at all policy and service levels, increases ICC communication with families, provides public awareness support, and identifies and supports efforts to improve early intervention services and programs within communities.

If you are interested in participating, contact: ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov



Nevada's Cindy Roller — winner of the 2013 ITCA Regional Parent Leadership Award.

The IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association (ITCA) **National and Regional Parent Leadership Awards** are given during OSEP's annual National IDEA Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. to acknowledge outstanding parent leadership on behalf of the Part C program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families.

The award is designed to acknowledge a parent/family member who has displayed outstanding leadership in Part C issues. This could be a state or local ICC member, someone associated with the PTI or an advocacy group, or an individual not associated with any formal organization, whose leadership has made a significant difference to the Part C system in his or her state.

Parents may be nominated on the basis of significant contributions, in either a volunteer or paid capacity, during a specific period of time, or for exceptional efforts over a period of several years. These efforts may range from family support efforts, recruiting and/or training families, serving on committees, working on legislative initiatives etc.

Cindy's achievements were highlighted in three categories: advocacy for parents; training of professionals; and service to children.

Cindy was instrumental in bringing the Ski-Hi training for professionals who work with children who are deaf or hard of hearing back to Nevada

As an advocate, Cindy was the President of **Nevada Hands and Voices** [<http://nvhandsandvoices.org/>] parent support group at its inception in 2006 and is now the Executive Director. Cindy is also the coordinator of the Guide by Your Side program which pairs trained parents to act as guides for families who have a child newly identified with a hearing loss.

Cindy often serves as a volunteer parent representative at board meetings, advisory meetings, task force meetings and workgroups for state organizations.

"Cindy has dedicated countless hours to providing family-centered support and mentoring across the state of Nevada. She is a phenomenal parent leader and her work has benefited and inspired numerous families, many of who are also getting involved supporting and educating new families." - Part C Coordinator's Meeting Program

Congratulations, Cindy!

The Part C Family Newsletter has opportunities to suggest and share... You are invited to submit articles, share your story, or include your child in a Family Spotlight, with a photo. (All items are subject to editing and review.)

FREE.... Enrollment in the national **EARLY INTERVENTION FAMILY ALLIANCE (EIFA)** to all families who have a child in early intervention. . . **Keep informed! Obtain Answers! Impact Policies!**

The Early Intervention Family Alliance is a national leadership organization dedicated to improving outcomes for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families, open to all.

Members receive email alerts and updates on key early intervention topics and can join the **EIFA** list serve to participate in active discussions and share experiences. Web: www.eifamilyalliance.org

EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES OR EVENTS FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:](#)
- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Ely:](#)
- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Winnemucca:](#)

NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

- ⇒ [Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:](#)
- ⇒ [Easter Seals Nevada—Reno:](#)
- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:](#)

Down Syndrome Network “Family Support Group” - Usually every 1st Tuesday of the month [except for Summer months activities] from 5:45 pm at NEIS-Enterprise. Call 775-682-9071 or e-mail dsnninfo@gmail.com to R.S.V.P.

Family TIES provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2nd Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS-Enterprise, by RSVP only! Please call 775-823-9500 to RSVP.

RAVE will also have **Respite Applications** available every 2nd Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS-Enterprise.

Friends of Special Children is looking for new board members to join their non-profit organization that supports families in Early Intervention. This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested in being a part of this great cause, contact Lori Schoen at 688-0379.

Scholarship Applications for the Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum are available by calling Lori Schoen, NEIS Supervisor, at 775-688-0379 or email address: lschoen@health.nv.gov

Hands and Voices meets at NEIS, Enterprise Rd., May 16th and the 4th Thursday of every other month at 6:00 pm.

- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City:](#)
- ⇒ [The Continuum—Reno:](#)
- ⇒ [Therapy Management Group—Reno:](#)

SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

- ⇒ [Easter Seals Nevada—Las Vegas:](#)

The Early Intervention Program at Easter Seals Nevada is hosting **playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! For more information call or email Ella Philander, 702.428-4335 or ella.philander@eastersealsnevada.org

- ⇒ [ISS “BABY STEPS”—Las Vegas:](#)
- ⇒ [Kideology—Las Vegas:](#)
- ⇒ [Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:](#)
- ⇒ [Positively Kids—Las Vegas:](#)

“Are you looking for a new Pediatrician? We have two great doctors at our clinic. Call 262-0037 for more information” Like us on **Facebook**, see all the great things we have happening! <https://www.facebook.com/positivelykids>

- ⇒ [Therapy Management Group—Las Vegas:](#)

Milagros Escondidos family support meetings the last Thursday of each month, 6pm-8pm, at 6600 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 111

From the **NATIONAL DISSEMINATION CENTER FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES (NICHCY)** [<http://nichcy.org/>]

NICHCY Fact Sheets are a great starting point for anyone who is living or working with a child who has a disability. Written specifically to meet the needs of parents and educators, NICHCY’s fact sheets on specific disabilities (e.g., autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome) cover definitions, causes, characteristics, educational considerations and helpful organizations to contact for further information.

<http://nichcy.org/disability/specific>

First Concern to Action Tool Kit

Autism Speaks has developed a [First Concern to Action Tool Kit](#) (2013), which is meant to provide families of children under the age of five with:

- An overview of early child development;
- Guidance on what to do if they have a concern about their child's development;
- Information about obtaining an evaluation for their child's development and treatment options, if needed.

The kit is also available in [Spanish](#).

<http://www.autismspeaks.org/early-access-care/first-concern-action>

NEVADA DISABILITIES CONFERENCE II

*This Conference is a major statewide event designed to meet the informational and networking needs of individuals with disabilities or special health care needs, family members, policymakers, administrators, educators, students, staff and service providers. This event provides a truly unique environment, where people can attend educational breakout sessions relevant to their specific needs, interact with government policy makers, network with other families and learn about the wide range of services available. . . . **Coming July 2015***

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION LIBRARY—

There are a great many things to learn... check them out!!!

Library catalogue for other titles at — http://health.nv.gov/BEIS_SpecialEdLibrary.htm

One of the resources available to **families, service providers, students, and teachers** working with young children with disabilities or special health care needs is the resource library. This large collection of books and videos is a tremendous source of information for parents and professionals in the care and education of a child with a disability.



"Laying Community Foundations for Your Child with a Disability: How to Establish Relationships That Will Support Your Child..." This practical guide shows families how to establish a network of people who can provide lasting relationships for their children, and the importance of beginning the process as early as possible in the life of their child. If you're the parent of a child with a disability, this book is of critical importance to you. Laying Community Foundations emphasizes the need to begin now to

build a caring community of people who will provide emotional support and guidance for your child throughout their life. Chapters discuss: • how to assess your child's needs & interests • how to navigate the human side of estate planning • how to foster long-term relationships for your child • where to look for potential relationships • how to ask people for a commitment • independent living arrangements.

"The Special Needs Planning Guide: How to Prepare for Every Stage of Your Child's Life" (includes CD-ROM) Transforming the financial planning presentations they've given to families across the country into a thorough, easy-to-read resource, the well-known authors (who also have family members with special needs) give parents a chronological guide for each stage from birth to adulthood. Parents will get comprehensive advice and strategies on how to address:

- *financial factors*—including mortgages and other expenses, insurance policies, investments, and savings
- *legal factors*—such as conducting estate planning, weighing guardianship with less restrictive alternatives, and creating a Special Needs Trust to ensure a child's future
- *government factors*—identifying and supplementing government benefits, such as residential services, supported employment, and respite care
- *family and support factors*—such as the family's values, the parent's careers, sibling considerations, and contributions of extended family members
- *emotional factors*—such as dealing with both positive and negative feelings, staying connected with others, and using strong emotions to fuel advocacy

These library materials are available for use statewide. For more information, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, please contact me at **Project ASSIST** toll free **1-800-522-0066** or ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov



www.health.nv.gov/BEIS.htm

Nevada's Early Intervention website is filled with information and resources, including a "Links" page of all kinds of useful websites with information, and a Frequently Asked Questions page.

To receive the newsletter electronically and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, please send your e-mail address to Dan Dinnell at ddinnell@dhhs.nv.gov

